FOTG Section III - Quality Criteria

RESOURCE CONCERNS	DEFINITIONS	QUALITY CRITERIA	ASSESSMENT TOOL
PLANTS:Condition (a1. Cropland Productivity)	Crops do not provide desired quantity and quality of products within available growing season	Crop varieties are selected to mature within the available growing season	LSU Ag. Ctr. recommended maturity groups and planting dates
PLANTS: FORESTLAND Condition (2a. Productivity)	Forest plant community does not provide adequate timber production, wildlife habitat, forage availability, water conservation and recreational access.	Planned measures overcome the limiting factors or problems that prohibit the plants from fulfilling the intended land use	Tree species composition and percent of ground cover.
PLANTS: Condition (2a. Productivity)	Plants do not provide the quantity and quality of crops, forage, cover, or habitat in the amounts and/or timeliness required to meet the intended land use	Planned practices overcome the limiting factors or problems that prohibit the plants from fulfilling the intended land use	**RANGE/PASTURE/HAYLAND -** National Range and Pasture Handbook, Forage Suitability Groups, Soil data yield tables, Forage Budget Worksheet, Pasture Condition Scoring (guide and scoresheet)
PLANTS: Suitability (a. Crop site suitability)	Crops are not well adapted to the site	Crop varieties or species are modified to suit the site or the site is modified to to better suit the available crops	Soil test and fertilizer recommendations, LSU Ag. Ctr. variety recommendations
PLANTS: Suitability (a. Plant adaptability)	Plants are not adapted to the soil and climatic conditions of the site	Planned practices either modify the site to better suit the plants or plant selection is changed to those species that are adapted and meet the intended land use.	**RANGE/PASTURE/HAYLAND - Site modification**:Soil test recommendations, appropriate practice standards **Plant selection**:LSU Agcenter recommended forage species information, USDA Plant Hardiness Zones, species lists in appropriate practice standards, Forage Suitability Groups, Ecological Site Descriptions, Range Planting (550) or Pature and Hayland Planting (512)

PLANTS: FORESTLAND Suitability (1a. Plant adaptability)	Tree and understory species are not adapted to the soil and climatic conditions of the site	Planned measures either modify the site to better suit existing plant community or plant community is changed to species that are better adapted and meet the intended land use.	**Site modification**:Soil test recommendations, **Plant selection**: Recommended tree species based on silvic of North America, Agriculture Handbook 654, and Tree Suitabiltiy Groups.
PLANTS: Suitability (a. Crop use suitability)	Crops are unsuitable for the intended use	Crop production is shifted to species suitable for the planned use	Soil test and fertilizer recommendations, LSU Ag. Ctr. variety recommendations
PLANTS: FORESTLAND Suitability (1b. Intended use)	Tree and understory species do not meet the needs and objectives of the manager, such as adequate timber production, wildlife habitat quality, forage quality and quantity, water conservation and recreational activities.	Selected plants are are suitable for the intended land use.	**Plant selection**: Recommended tree species based on silvic of North America, Agriculture Handbook 654, and Tree Suitabiltiy Groups.
PLANTS: Suitability (1b. Intended use)	Plant of concern does not meet the needs and objectives of the manager, such as adequate quality/quantity of forage, erosion control, water conservation, etc.	Plants are selected that are suitable for the intended land use.	**RANGE/PASTURE/HAYLAND -** National Range and Pasture Handbook, LSU Agcenter recommended forage species information, USDA Plant Hardiness Zones, species lists in appropriate practice standards,Forage Suitability Groups, Ecological Site Descriptions
PLANTS:Condition (2b. Health and vigor)	Plants do not manufacture sufficient energy to produce a crop or sustain a viable stand to meet the intended land use.	Planned practices overcome the identified limiting factor(s) and enable the plants to fulfill the intended land use.	**RANGE/PASTURE/HAYLAND -** National Range and Pasture Handbook, Appropriate practice standards, Pasture Condition Scoring (guide and scoresheet).
PLANTS: Condition (b. Crop health and vigor)	Crops do not manufacture sufficient plant food to continue the growth cycle or to reproduce	Crops receive adequate nutrient, soil amendments, and pest protection to produce an agronomically and economically sustainable yield.	Soil test and fertilizer recommendations, IPM, plant tissue analysis. LSU Ag. Ctr. variety recommendations
PLANTS: FORESTLAND Condition (2b. Health and vigor)	Forest plant community does not manufacture sufficient energy sustain viable productivity that meets the intended land use.	Management inputs or practices overcome the identified limiting factor and enable the plants to fulfill the intended land use.	Peroidic tree and biomass volume yields.

PLANTS: Management (3a.Establishment,growth, and harvest)	The management plan does not provide the proper techniques and timing to meet the plants needs for establishment, growth, and harvest.	Planned practices or management techniques are implemented at the appropriate time to overcome limiting factors and ensure adequate plant establishment, growth, and sustainable use appropriate with the plant's intended use.	**RANGE/PASTURE/HAYLAND -** Forage Budget Worksheet, appropriate practice standards
PLANTS: FORESTLAND Management (3a.Establishment,growth, and harvest)	Forest productivity is sustained by a management plan that provides the proper techniques and timing for establishing, growing , and harvesting the plant community.	Proper management techniques are implemented at the appropriate time to ensure adequate plant establishment, growth, and sustainable use appropriate with the plant's intended use.	Tree seedling survival and growth inventories, plant species inventories, and periodic biomass volume yields.
PLANTS: Management (b. Nutrient management	Nutrients available for crop production are insufficient	Nutrients/soil amendments are supplied in recommended amounts in an environmentally responsible manner	Soil test, tissue analysis, LSU Ag. Ctr. Recommendations, Phosphorus Index when organic materials are applied.
PLANTS: FORESTLAND Management (3b. Nutrients)	The correct amount of plant nutrients are not available to meet the needs of the forest plant community or selected plants within the community.	Planned measures provide for application of plant nutrients in accordance with a nutrient or soil test to meet the needs to produce at the desired level for the soil and site conditions present.	Plant species inventories, and periodic biomass volume yields. Soil test recommendation.
PLANTS: Management (3b. Nutrients)	Species of concern have low vigor, show signs of nutrient deficiency, or are not attaining the desired production due to the lack of available nutrients.	Planned practices provide for application of plant nutrients in accordance with a nutrient or soil test to meet the needs of the plant to produce at the desired level for the soil and site conditions present.	**RANGE/PASTURE/HAYLAND -** Soil test recommendations, Phosphorus Index, Nutrient Management Plan.
PLANTS: Management (c. Pest Management)	Crop pests are not kept below economic ninjury threshholds	Pests are controlled according to IPM principles,in an environmentally responsible manner, when economic injury threshholds are reached	Pest scouting, IPM principles, LSU Ag. Ctr. Recommendations, WIN-PST

PLANTS: FORESTLAND Management (3c. Pests)	Pests (undesirable brush, weeds, insects, diseases, and fungi) are not managed to meet the needs of the forest plant community or selected plants within the community	Planned measures treat identified pest problems in a manner that meets the needs of the plant community or the selected plants while fulfilling management objectives.	Plant species inventories, and periodic biomass volume yields, WIN-PST.
PLANTS:Management (3c. Pests)	Pests (undesirable brush, weeds, insects, diseases, and fungi) are affecting the growth and vigor of the species of concern such that management objectives or resource management objectives are not being met.	Planned practices treat identified pest problems in a manner that meets the needs of the selected plant while fulfilling management objectives.	**RANGE/PASTURE/HAYLAND -** WINPST, LSU Agcenter Chemical Weed Control Guide, LSU Agcenter Insect Pest Management Guide
PLANTS:Management (3d. Threatened and Endangered species)	Current management conflicts with the survival of Threatened or Endangered species	Planned practices are implemented that do not threaten the continued survival of the species of concern.	Identify and assist in the monitoring of T & E Species**.**